

Bear's Lodge and the Seven Little Girls **A Dakota (Lakota) Story**

There were seven little girls playing far from the tribal camp. All of a sudden they heard a loud growl from the distance. One of the seven little girls pointed toward the east. All of the girls became shocked and scared. They had never seen a bear that huge and scary. The huge bear let out another loud growl that moved the pine trees.

The seven little girls felt the ground below begin to move and the huge bear began to charge at them. They all screamed and began to panic, the bravest of the seven little girls yelled out "ka-keya" which means "over there". There was a small hill and on that small hill was a huge rock.

All the seven little girls quickly ran up the small hill and jumped on the huge rock. The growls of the huge bear became louder as he came closer. The ground began to shake. The earth began to rumble and the huge rock came alive and started rising toward the sky. The huge bear made a giant leap to stop the huge rock from rising. He put his claws around the rock but the rock kept rising. The huge bear kept clawing around the rock but it kept rising. One of bear's claws got caught in the rock. The huge bear broke it's claw on the tip and he fell hard to the ground. A loud rumble shook the earth where the bear landed. He left his mark on the sacred rock in the sky towering over the pine trees.

The spirit of the huge bear remained at the bottom of the giant rock. The seven little girls were told by the spirit of the giant rock that they cannot go back down. They must continue their journey in the sky. The seven little girls became part of the Dakota star nation.

*The bear's lodge is represented by Orion and the seven girls as the Pleiades constellation. The rock is in Wyoming and is called "The Devil's Tower".